

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the status of the claims to that as indicated as follows:

Claims 1-12 (canceled)

13. (new) A water conditioner, comprising:

a pipe; and,

a plate located in said pipe and having, on at least one side of said plate, means for causing water flow to adopt a torturous path through said pipe.

14. (new) The water conditioner according to Claim 13, wherein said means for causing water flow to adopt a torturous path includes a plurality of posts extending at a normal angle from each side of said plate.

15. (new) The water conditioner according to Claim 14, wherein each post of said plurality of posts passes through said plate and extends from each side of said plate.

16. (new) The water conditioner according to Claim 14, wherein each post of said plurality of posts extends to a position adjacent an inner surface of said pipe.

17. (new) The water conditioner according to Claim 14, wherein said plurality of posts are arranged in rows on, or parallel to, a longitudinal axis of said plate.

18. (new) The water conditioner according to Claim 13, further comprising a plurality of substantially longitudinal ribs extending lengthwise along said plate.

19. (new) The water conditioner according to Claim 18, wherein said plurality of substantially longitudinal ribs are regularly displaced from a longitudinal axis of said plate.

20. (new) The water conditioner according to Claim 18, wherein ribs of said plurality of substantially longitudinal ribs adjacent a center area of said plate are higher, or taller, than ribs adjacent an edge of said plate, so that when said plate is located within said pipe, said plurality of substantially longitudinal ribs are located adjacent an inner periphery of said pipe.

21. (new) The water conditioner according to Claim 18, wherein said means for causing water flow to adopt a torturous path includes a plurality of posts extending at a normal angle from each side of said plate.

22. (new) The water conditioner according to Claim 21, wherein said plurality of substantially longitudinal ribs have a height that is substantially equal to that of adjacent posts of said plurality of posts.

23. (new) The water conditioner according to Claim 13, further comprising means for directing water coming into said water conditioner toward a central portion of said water conditioner.

24. (new) The water conditioner according to Claim 23, wherein said means for directing water coming into said water conditioner is a truncated conical member located in an inlet of said pipe.

25. (new) The water conditioner according to Claim 13, further comprising an EMF applied to said water conditioner.